Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device [[(10)]] including a pair of thin plates ~~(12a, 12b)~~ confronting each other, a fixing member [[(14)]] supporting the thin plates ~~(12a, 12b)~~ thereon, and movable portions ~~(22a, 22b)~~ disposed on end portions of the pair of thin plates ~~(12a, 12b)~~, comprising the steps of:

forming protrusions [[(72)]] which will subsequently serve as the movable portions ~~(22a, 22b)~~ on principal surfaces of first ceramic green sheets ~~(60A, 60B)~~ which will subsequently serve as the thin plates ~~(12a, 12b)~~, according to at least a single thick film forming process;

stacking said first ceramic green sheets ~~(60A, 60B)~~ and a second ceramic green sheet [[(64)]] which will subsequently serve as the fixing member ~~(14)~~, into a ceramic green laminated body ~~(50)~~;

baking said ceramic green laminated body [[(50)]] into an integral ceramic laminated body ~~(52)~~; and

forming piezoelectric/electrostrictive elements ~~(18a, 18b)~~ on said ceramic laminated body ~~(52)~~, baking said piezoelectric/electrostrictive elements ~~(18a, 18b)~~ and removing unnecessary portions therefrom to fabricate the piezoelectric/electrostrictive device ~~(10)~~.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, wherein said protrusions [[(72)]] have a width [[(L)]] of 30 μm or greater.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1[[or 2]], wherein said protrusions [[(72)]] have a thickness [[(H)]] in the range from 2 to 50 μm.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 through 3,~~ wherein said protrusions [[(72)]] include a peripheral portion having a thickness H1 and a central thickest portion having a thickness H2, and the thicknesses have a ratio as follows:

H1/H2 = 1/3 to 3/4.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 through 3,~~ wherein said protrusions [[(72)]] include a central portion having a thickness H1 and a peripheral thickest portion having a thickness H2, and the thicknesses have a ratio as follows:

H1/H2 = 1/3 to 3/4.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 5, wherein if a material for the protrusions [[(72)]] for making the thickness [[(H)]] of said protrusions [[(72)]] substantially

uniform has a viscosity A in an order of 10,000 cps, then said protrusions [[(72)]] are made of a material having a viscosity higher than said viscosity A.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 through 5,~~ wherein when said protrusions [[(72)]] are formed on said first ceramic green sheets ~~(60A, 60B)~~, a first protrusion [[(72A)]] is formed on said first ceramic green sheets ~~(60A, 60B)~~, and thereafter a second protrusion [[(72B)]] is formed on said first protrusion [[(72A)]] in such a displaced position that the second protrusion [[(72B)]] partly overlaps said first protrusion [[(72A)]].

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 7, wherein said first protrusion [[(72A)]] or said second protrusion [[(72B)]] has a thickness H1, a thickest portion [[(82)]] of an overlapping region [[(80)]] of the first protrusion [[(72A)]] and the second protrusion [[(72B)]] has a thickness H2, and the thicknesses have a ratio as follows:

H1/H2 = 1/3 to 3/4.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 7, wherein an overlapping region [[(80)]] of the first protrusion [[(72A)]] and the second protrusion [[(72B)]] has a thickness H1, a thickest portion of said first protrusion [[(72A)]] or said second protrusion [[(72B)]] has a thickness H2, and the thicknesses have a ratio as follows:

H1/H2 = 1/3 to 3/4.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 through 6,~~ wherein when said protrusions [[(72)]] are formed on said first ceramic green sheets ~~(60A, 60B)~~, a plurality of protrusions [[(72)]] are formed separately from each other on said first ceramic green sheets ~~(60A, 60B)~~.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 through 10,~~ wherein said protrusions [[(72)]] are formed of a paste comprising a ceramic material which has the same composition as said first ceramic green sheets ~~(60A, 60B)~~, an organic binder, and an organic solvent according to a screen printing process.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 through 10,~~ wherein a paste comprising a ceramic material, a metal material, an organic binder, and an organic solvent is used.

Claim 13 (Original): A method of manufacturing a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 12, wherein said metal material comprises a platinum-group metal.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 through 10~~, wherein when said protrusions [[(72)]] are formed of a paste comprising a ceramic material which has the same composition as said first ceramic green sheets ~~(60A, 60B)~~, an organic

binder, and an organic solvent according to a screen printing process, said protrusions [[(72)]] have a porosity of 50 % or less.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a piezoelectric/electrostrictive device according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 through 10,~~ wherein when said protrusions [[(72)]] are formed of a paste comprising a ceramic material which is different from said first ceramic green sheets ~~(60A, 60B)~~, an organic binder, and an organic solvent according to a screen printing process, said protrusions [[(72)]] have a porosity in the range from 5 to 30 %.